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(54) **PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION OF MEDIA CONTENT WITHIN A GLOBAL NETWORK**

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G06F 7/00   (2006.01)
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **726/29**; 726/26; 713/164
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See application file for complete search history.

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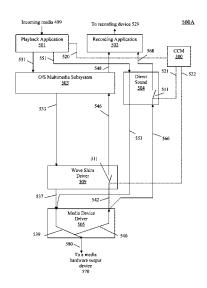""Kernal"", *Microsoft Dictionary*, 5th Ed. Microsoft Press: Redmond, Washington, 300, 2002.

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(57)   **ABSTRACT**

One embodiment of the invention is a method for providing media content while preventing its unauthorized distribution. The method includes transmitting from a client to an administrative node a request for delivery of an instance of media content (IMC); determining which content source (CS) of a plurality of CSs to provide delivery of the IMC, provided the client is authorized to receive the IMC; transmitting to the client an access key and a location of the IMC; transmitting from the client to the CS a second request and the access key; in response to receiving the second request and the access key, transferring the IMC from the CS to the client; transmitting from the client to the administrative node an indicator indicating a successful transfer of the IMC; and generating a transaction applicable to the client and associated with the transfer of the IMC to the client.

11 Claims, 24 Drawing Sheets